



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley  
Governor

Anthony G. Brown  
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard  
Acting Secretary

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Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065

## **Correctional Officer Rescues Van Driver at Patuxent Institution**

***Victim had been pursued and rammed by another driver;  
Vehicles ended-up on Patuxent's front lawn***

TOWSON, MD (February 3, 2007)---A veteran correctional sergeant at Patuxent Institution will receive an official commendation after rescuing a driver who had allegedly been rammed several times early Friday morning, in an incident that ended just ten feet from Patuxent's front door.

It was a bout 3:20 in the morning on Friday, when Sgt. Dave Cacciotti, a 14-year veteran, glanced out the window of the renowned treatment prison in Jessup and saw two vehicles literally drive off route 175 heading straight for the front door of the gatehouse. "I looked up and saw a white van with headlights coming right at me," said the sergeant.

After a brief struggle, both men then raced inside the gatehouse, where Sgt. Cacciotti managed to subdue the alleged attacker, call for backup, and summon police. Other correctional officers arrived quickly, and eventually, Maryland State Police took the alleged attacker away for an evaluation at a local hospital.

Police say the victim reported being rammed on Interstate 95 before exiting onto 175 in an effort to get away from the suspect. He was rammed again before being rear-ended on the Patuxent lawn. The vehicles apparently drove off the road and up the grassy hill, coming to rest just outside the main entrance used by visitors and employees.

Sgt. Cacciotti refuses to take credit for his fast action. "My reward is to come to work and do the job," he says. But he'll get a pat on the back nonetheless: Patuxent's director, Dr. Randall Nero, plans to give him an official commendation.

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